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News from across the City



Serving the people of Abbeydale and Abbeymead

February 2017

ANDREW GRAVELLS REPORTS BACK

Andrew reports back on local issues he's been working on with Gloucester City Council and also Gloucestershire County Council.

Andrew has held several meetings with the Highways England Department to secure measures to reduce the surface noise from the M5 which runs through Abbeydale and Abbeymead.

Andrew said, "At a Meeting with the Government's Transport Minister, John Hayes MP, in the House of Commons, I was delighted to hear the Minister tell me and some of the Gloucestershire Members of Parliament that the work to resurface the stretches of the M5 which run through our area will begin this year."

He added, "The latest news I have is that the resurfacing will start in mid-February and last approximately 6 weeks, and is hoped to be completed around the end of March. The only thing that may affect this is if we have severe weather. Richard Graham, our City MP, organised the meeting and his support has been a big help here."

Other major issues Andrew has worked on include improvements

to Abbeymead Avenue and a new link to Abbeymead Primary school.

Andrew is always contactable by email or phone, and he holds an Advice Surgery on the last Saturday of every month at the Abbeydale Community Centre between 10am and 11am.

"This is a great part of Gloucester in which to live."



Andrew (2nd from left) with Transport Minister (1st on right) at Parliament

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR ABBEYMEAD AVENUE

The improvements planned for Abbeymead Avenue aim to reduce journey times, whilst improving safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists.

The works will include; the provision of an extended left turn lane into North Upton Lane (Eastbound); the provision of an extended left turn lane on the Westbound approach to Eastern Avenue; installation of new traffic signal equipment at the North Upton Lane Junction; various pedestrian and off carriageway cycleway improvements; upgrading of the existing signalised pedestrian crossing to the West of Coney Hill Road; upgrading of the existing signalised pedestrian crossing to the East of Mead Road; and upgrading of the existing signal controlled junction and pedestrian crossings at the junction of Kimberland Way.

The works are expected to take around 4 months and will start later this year. The total cost of the work will be £1.6million.



Cllr Laura Pearsall and Andrew on Abbeymead Avenue

GET IN TOUCH

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MAKING BREXIT A SUCCESS: TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS FOR LEGAL FREEDOMS & ECONOMIC BENEFITS

"June 24th divided the country", says MP Richard Graham, "but we're all on the same side now in wanting a successful Brexit. So we must come together and support the PM in the negotiations."

Our City's MP says this means moving on from current divisions, "Brexit is not a boiled egg - hard or soft: it's a negotiation to give us control of our borders and laws and freedom from European Court of Justice judgements, while keeping the free movement of trade and investment that we currently have through the Single Market and the Customs Union."

Richard, also the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, highlighted that leaving the EU gave us the chance to negotiate our own Free Trade Agreements elsewhere. "There's a lot of enthusiasm," he said, "and although some of these talks will take time others can happen quickly."

Meanwhile our economy has been resilient with the highest growth in the West in 2016, and a huge boost to manufacturing exports which is good for Gloucester.

"So far so good," said Richard, "and everyone should be reassured that there will be a Parliamentary vote at the end of the negotiations. It's important that we get good transitional arrangements for business as part of this."



Richard meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May



Cheltenham & Gloucester unite against stalkers

Doubling the Maximum Stalking Sentence

■ "You don't get many chances to change the law. This was the second time that I've been able to do so" said Richard Graham, "and both times something that happened in Gloucester has driven me to campaign."

Gloucester GP Dr Eleanor Aston was so badly stalked for so long that Judge Jamie Tabor said that if he could have sentenced the stalker for longer then he would.

Richard decided together with Dr Aston's constituency MP, Alex Chalk in Cheltenham, to try and get the law changed. They did several months of research on the national situation and wrote a report that drew on the evidence of victims, charities and academics, including the University of Gloucestershire and the Hollie Gazzard Trust. "Our single recommendation was to double the maximum sentence for stalking," noted Richard.

In January 2017, after much debate and discussion, the introduction of Stalking Protection Orders and an amendment in the Lords to the Policing and Crime Bill, the government accepted the report and changed the law.

Richard said, "This won't stop stalking but is wonderful news for those who've been stalked, for campaigners - and for Gloucestershire, which has led every step of the way. It shows that victims and Judges are heard, that MPs and ultimately the government listens and that the law can be changed."



Richard with campaigners and charities

GETT ROA



The team working on the

SEEING ABILITY NOT THE DISABILITY

"In our Work and Pensions Select Committee our focus this year has been the percentage of unemployed people with disabilities, and what can be done to reduce this."

Richard highlighted the relative success in the South West where the unemployment rate of 6.9% is the lowest in the country, not least thanks to work from charities like Pluss and Forwards

in Gloucester who provide extra support to employers and employees.

Local company Glevum Security signed the Disability Confident pledge and recently offered wheelchair bound Gary CCTV security training. Glevum Security training manager Derek Martin helped to encourage Gary to get back into work through training and by

sharing his interest with local employers to get important experience, and hope that he will soon find a place at Stroud Police monitoring their CCTV.

"I encourage anyone with a disability and looking for a job to contact Forwards on 01452 328400," said GCC Longlevens Councillor Kathy Williams.



Richard with Rachele, who works for the Secret Garden Nursery in Eastgate Street

TING GLOUCESTER DS RIGHT



the Elmbridge Court Roundabout

"2014 government and county council funded improvements to the Walls and C&G roundabouts made a real difference to drivers", said MP Richard Graham, "and now we're doing the same at the Elmbridge Court roundabout and will do at the Over roundabout."

Richard also arranged for a delegation of Gloucestershire MPs and councillors to meet Roads Minister John Hayes about noise on the M5 close to Abbey residents. The minister agreed to resurface the road and plant more trees to reduce noise levels.

Meanwhile our county council has earmarked an extensive £2million for potholes, which can be reported here: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit/potholes>. Tuffley campaigner Andrew Miller said, "it's easier to report and monitor issues using this system."

Richard added, "My next priority is to sort the exit from the train station onto Bruton Way/Metz Way. I'm sure that this can be resolved, and getting the traffic flow right is vital for our city."

Local News inbrief

FIRST CLASS SERVICE FROM THE POST OFFICE

"I don't want to see any Post Office close in Gloucester while I'm MP, and have worked closely with the Post Office Ltd when a sub postmaster retires or a new space is required," said Richard.

In fact 10 of our city's 13 Post Offices have been modernised with longer opening hours, especially on Sundays. There are 275

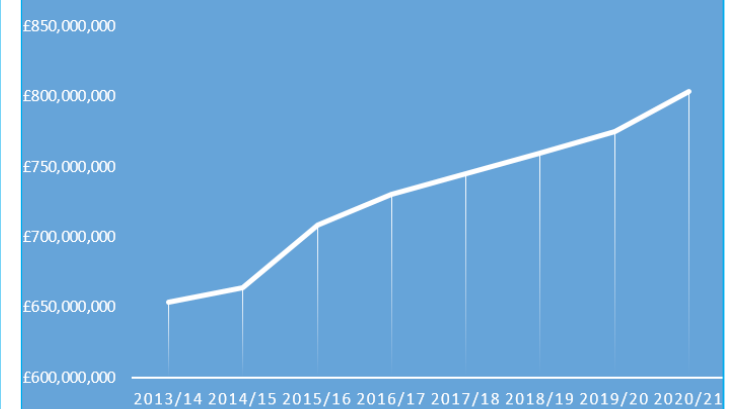
hours extra access to Post Offices, which will really help residents.

Barnwood Councillor and Hucclecote campaigner Lise Noakes said she was delighted: "both the Barnwood and Hucclecote Post Offices have longer hours and more services - and the Barnwood Post Office has much more space."



Richard, Cllrs Lise Noakes & Laura Pearsall, and staff opening new Post Office

FUNDING FOR THE NHS IN GLOS



INVESTING IN A HEALTHIER GLOUCESTER

Gloucester's MP said, "The health challenges of an ageing city and county mean funding for the NHS has to increase - and it is. Health funding is up over £55 million since 2013/14 and will increase again every year of this Parliament."

Richard added, "Remember to use the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital only for real

emergencies. Otherwise our Gloucester Health Access Centre on Eastgate Street is open 08:00-20:00 (call them on 01452 336290) and ring 111 for our Out of Hours service. The NHS recommends that you visit our local pharmacies to get the right treatment for colds."

Laura and Andrew at the site of the new path



ANDREW AND LAURA SECURE COMMITMENT FOR NEW PATH TO ABBEYMEAD PRIMARY

Andrew and Laura, working with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council, have come up with a new scheme to create a new footpath link from Lobleys Drive car park to the existing path at Lobleys Drive open space.

A new pedestrian entrance will be constructed at the entrance to Lobleys Drive car park, which will make it much easier for people to walk to Abbeymead Primary School from this side of the estate.

The car park is currently pretty muddy and the path will make walking around it much easier.

Andrew said, 'People understandably get confused between what the County Council does and what the City Council does, but working together with Laura, we've been able to cut to the chase to deliver on this new

path. I'm really pleased.'

Laura Pearsall said, 'It just goes to show what can be achieved when we all work together, and it's great to be able to work with Andrew to deliver good results for our area. Living off Lobleys Drive myself, I feel this will be a real bonus for our area and a good link to the school.'

Not far from this area, there is the skate park which is well used and popular. We're also looking at other areas of open space here, to see if we can make better use of them. Ideas and feedback on these are welcome.



Cllrs Paul Toleman and Collette Finnegan

DEMENTIA CHARITY BRACELET

A Gloucester dementia charity wristband was recently launched at Kingsholm to a capacity crowd with huge success.

The band was conceived and designed by former Nurse, Cllr Collette Finnegan (recently appointed Health Champion for Gloucester), to support local dementia charities and is sponsored by Gloucester Rugby Club. The wristband carries the word 'Memories' and is in the club's cherry and white colours.

Collette and her team received overwhelming support from fans, raising over £2,300.

Collette said, "By wearing a bracelet you will be supporting dementia charities and showing a commitment to help anyone suffering with this debilitating illness."

Cllr Andrew Gravells said, "This is the first stage towards making Gloucester a dementia friendly city where there are already over 1300 people suffering from this illness."

The initiative is designed to raise peoples' awareness of the illness and the impact that it can have on both sufferers and their families.

DAY TRIP TO LONDON - MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2017

Your local councillors have organised a day trip to London for Abbey residents, to include a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

This will take place on Monday 3rd April and the tour of Parliament will include the historic Westminster Hall and both the Commons and Lords' Chambers. It will last approximately 75 minutes, so there will also be time for you to spend in London following the tour.

The coach will be departing from Morrisons, Abbeydale at 7:45am to arrive in London in time for the tour. Tickets for this trip will be £22.50 per

person.

If you would like to book tickets, please contact Laura at: laura.pearsall@gloucester.gov.uk or on 07508 294182 ASAP as tickets are selling out fast!



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Promoted by Laura Pearsall, on behalf of Gloucester Conservatives, both of Unit 1143 Regent Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AD. Printed by PPC Ltd, 192 Bedminster Down, Bristol, BS13 7AF

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If you can help Gloucester Conservatives, please contact us using the details above or fill out and return this form to the address opposite.

Name

Address

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Email

How can you help?

- ☐ Window poster ☐ Garden poster
☐ Larger poster ☐ Deliver leaflets

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